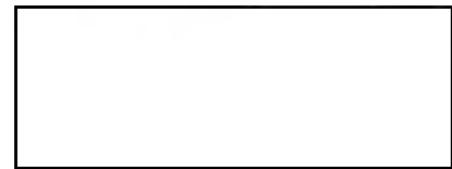


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NATO: The alliance is debating over how to fill the gap in its European defenses when Canadian units withdraw.

In the Defense Planning Committee meeting on 24 July, Canada reaffirmed its intention to reduce its forces but agreed to work out terms for the scope and timing of the withdrawal with NATO military authorities. These developments leave the allies with the question of how to develop and pay for substitute forces, a problem which at least the British insist must be solved by the time the Canadians pull out.

The US mission expects that SACEUR will recommend that the US return two strike squadrons which had been redeployed and that the UK send an additional army brigade to Germany. In addition, SACEUR is expected to ask that Belgium and the Netherlands expand their forces and that Germany contribute increased armor and artillery support.

The British appear ready to deploy more troops and will urge that other members be prepared to submit proposals for their contributions by the time the Canadian withdrawal plan comes before the Defense Planning Committee. The Germans, who are fearful of the increased costs entailed in "filling the gap," are equally determined that the question of substitute forces be considered apart from--and presumably after--the Canadian withdrawal plan.

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ENDC: The impasse over enlargement of the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee has been broken by Soviet acceptance of the US proposal to add six members--Netherlands, Hungary, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Argentina, and Morocco. The Soviet and US cochairmen hope their proposal will be quickly accepted by the present members, in order to permit the new members to make substantive contributions at the current ENDC session. A number of nonnuclear nations had threatened to turn to the UN Disarmament Commission unless they gained a greater voice in ENDC matters.

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